

scarcely had it recovered from this calamity, when another of the same kind began at Ludgate, and destroyed the best and most opulent part of the city, consuming, among other buildings, the Cathedral of St. Paul. Under the reign of William Rufus, London suffered considerably by fires, hurricanes, and inundations, and was likewise depressed by the tyranny of that prince; but Henry I. granted large immunities to the city, which were favourable to the progress of the arts, and again revived its trade; the appointment of portreeve, or chief magistrate, was, however, still in the hands of the king. In this reign such was the abundance of provision, that as much corn was sold for 1s. as would suffice 100 people for a day; 4d. would purchase as much hay and corn as would maintain twenty horses for a day, and a sheep could be bought for fourpence.

On the death of Henry II., the title of the first magistrate of London was changed from *portreeve* to that of *baillif*; and in 1189 its chief magistrate claimed and acted in the office of *chief butler* at the coronation of Richard I. In 1191 this monarch permitted Henry Fitz Ailnoe, the then *baillif*, to assume the title of *mayor*, and twelve aldermen were also then chosen by the discreeter men of the city in full hearings, to assist the mayor in appeasing contentions that might arise in the city, upon inclosures between land and land. Almost the first act signalizing this body was the order that all houses, hereafter to be erected in London and the liberties thereof, should be of stone, with party-walls of the same, and covered either with slates or tiles, to prevent those dreadful calamities by fire, which were frequently and chiefly occasioned by houses built of wood, and thatched with reeds or straw; the dimensions of the party-wall were to be sixteen feet high and three feet thick.

The citizens of London were also much favoured by King John, who gave them three charters soon after his accession, the first confirming them in their former rights and privileges, and exempting them from tolls and customs on the payment of 3,000 marks annually; the second confirming the one granted by King Richard, by which the citizens have the jurisdiction and conservancy of the river Thames, and a clause extending this right to the river Medway; the third contains a fee-farm rent of the sheriffwick of London and Middlesex at the ancient rent, granting them also the additional power of choosing their own sheriffs. In the reign of Henry III. the city was much oppressed, many of its citizens slain and others mutilated by having their hands and feet cut off by order of the chief judiciary, Hubert de Burg, who also degraded the mayor and all the magistrates, and placed a *custos* over the city, and obliged thirty persons, of his own choosing, to become securities for the good behaviour of the whole city. The general alarm which followed these arbitrary acts, extorted a confirmation of *Magna Charta* in full parliament in the year 1225, at which time the citizens were confirmed in their rights and privileges. In the nineteenth year of this king's reign, Walter le Bruin, a farrier, had a piece of land granted him in the Strand, in the parish of St. Clement's Danes, whereon to erect a forge, he rendering to the exchequer annually for the same a quit rent of six horse-shoes, with their nails, which is paid up to the present day. One hundred pounds was also granted in 1236 towards bringing water to the city from Tybourn; the town was also fortified, much to the alarm of the citizens. About the same time the heads of colleges of Oxford, with their scholars, were obliged to repair to London and do penance, and assembling at St. Paul's, they thence walked to Durham-house, the legate's palace in the Strand, undressed, bare-headed, and bare-footed, ere they could obtain absolution for killing the legate's cook, and compelling himself to take refuge in the church-steeples. In 1243 wheat was 2s. per quarter.

In the year 1248, on St. Valentine's eve, a terrible earthquake happened in London, destroying many houses. In 1252, the citizens, not being possessed with the chivalrous spirit of the king, refused to undertake the crusade, with the exception of three individuals, for which they were called by him a parcel of base, ignoble mercenaries and scoundrels, fined twenty golden marks, and otherwise ill-used by frequent arbitrary exactions. About

1257 Henry caused the mayor and sheriffs to be degraded, under a pretence of mal-administration, but in reality, to extort money. The wall and bulwarks of London having become very ruinous, the citizens were commanded to repair the same, which they some time after effected at a very great expense. Twenty thousand persons in London are reported to have died about this time from famine, a dearth being occasioned by a remarkably wet season. King Edward III., having come to the throne, confirmed all the rights and privileges of the citizens, and a convent being required for certain Black Friars, he granted the city a toll for three years to be raised in merchandise of various sorts, and the city was opened and carried out, by a new wall westward, to Fleet ditch, and thence southward to the river Thames. In the first year of his reign he not only confirmed the ancient rights and privileges of the city, but also conferred many other important privileges. In 1348 London was thinned of its inhabitants by a terrible pestilence, and some authors affirm that 50,000 persons were buried in the *Spittle-croft* (now the Charter-house) alone. In 1381 the then lord mayor, Sir William Walworth, distinguished himself by slaying Wat Tyler, for which great service he was knighted and had a fee-farm of 100*l.* per annum bestowed upon him.

In Henry IV.'s time the prison, called the Tun, in Cornhill, was converted into a cistern or conduit for Tyburn water; the liberty of St. Martin's-le-grand was petitioned against as a receptacle of murderers, thieves, bankrupts, &c.; a great plague carried off 30,000 of its inhabitants. In the reign of Henry V., the mayor, Sir Henry Barton, first ordered lanterns to be hung out for illuminating the streets by night. In the reign of Henry VIII. the streets constituting the chief thoroughfares into London were ordered to be paved with stone, and channels made in the midst thereof, at the charge of the ground-landlords. In the early part of the reign of Queen Mary, the citizens had acquired such luxurious habits, that it was found absolutely necessary to restrain them, and it was enacted, in common council, that thenceforth the mayor should have no more than one course, either at dinner or supper; and that on a festival, being a feast-day, to consist of no more than seven dishes, whether hot or cold; and on every festival being a feast-day, eight dishes; and on every common feast-day, six dishes; and on every common feast-day, seven dishes, exclusive of brawn, cullops with eggs, salads, pottage, butter, cheese, eggs, herrings, sprats, and fruits, together with all sorts of shell-fish and game; the aldermen and sheriffs to have one dish less, city companies the same; swan, crane, and bustard were prohibited; and even at public entertainments no other extras were to be given than *hipocras* and wafers, &c. The number of taverns were limited to forty; and to Westminster three street bellmen were also instituted in this reign.

In the time of Elizabeth, 1556, Sir Thomas Gresham, a worthy merchant and citizen of London, proposed to the lord mayor and citizens to erect, in a convenient site, a commodious edifice for merchants to meet in; which being agreed to, and the place chosen being cleared by the removal of eighty houses, the building was erected within twelve months, and went under the name of the *Burse*. In 1582 Peter Maurier erected a machine in the river Thames for raising water, which, by suction and pressure, raised the water to a sufficient height to supply the uppermost rooms of the loftiest house in the metropolis; the number of these machines eventually increased to five. In this reign the suburbs of the city increased so fast, that it was thought proper by the government to put a stop to it by proclamation, whereby all persons were prohibited from building upon new foundations; the citizens suffered much from frequent outbreaks of the plague in this and the succeeding reign. In the reign of James the orders were again re-issued and enforced against building upon new foundations; and, in consideration of the great decay of wood, all persons were enjoined to build the fronts of their houses either with stone or brick; during the whole of this reign there was, in fact, a regular crusade against the old builders. Foot-pavements then came in fashion.

(To be continued.)

## THE ART OF BRICKMAKING.

This art of brickmaking was extensively practised in the earliest ages on record, and was most probably derived from India, along with other arts mentioned by ancient writers. The book of Genesis informs us that burnt bricks were employed in the construction of the Tower of Babel; if such was really the case, it is most probable that all vestiges of this ancient monument of the ambition of former times have been swept away in the revolutions of after ages, for the ruins mentioned by Buckingham and other travellers, and supposed to be of the ancient tower, consist of sun-dried bricks, and from the vitrified masses found among them, we should rather infer that they belonged to some magnificent temple destroyed by fire.

The Egyptians were well versed in the art of brickmaking, but many ages elapsed ere they began to use burnt-bricks. In the dawn of civilisation, when the Egyptians descended from their caverns in the hills, and from the increase of the alluvial deposits forming the Delta, the houses were chiefly mere cabins, such as even now exist in Ireland, the better sort being built of sun-dried bricks formed solely of the material deposited by the Nile: this mode of building was dictated by necessity, there being no timber in the country fit for building-purposes. At a much later date, when the Jews were in Egypt, the art of brickmaking had reached its perfect state; stubble was used with the river deposits, and bricks used in some of the public works, not by the rich, underwent the process of burning. Some of the pyramids are built of brick, and one of them, called *Kinneb el Menshieh* (the bricks of Memphis), is of unburnt brick, being composed of a black, sandy earth, with some pebbles and shells in it, and mixed with chopped straw, in order to bind the earth together, as they now make unburnt bricks in Egypt, and many other eastern parts. Nimrod, built by Nimrod, and the famous walls of Babylon, were also built of the same material.

The Greeks, according to Pliny, made use of bricks of three different sizes, distinguished by the following names:—*dodoron* or six inches long, *tetradoron* or twelve inches long, and *pentadoron* or fifteen inches long. Vitruvius instances several celebrated structures, as the walls of Athens; the cells of the temples of Jupiter and Hercules, which were of brick, the surrounding columns and entablature being of stone. This writer also speaks of the Roman art of brickmaking, which had acquired great celebrity in his days, and gives the following directions for making unburnt bricks. They should not be made, he says, of sandy, stony, or gravelly loam, for such kind of earth renders them heavy, and upon being wetted with rain after being laid in the wall, they sweat and dissolve, and the straw which is put in them does not adhere on account of their roughness. The earth of which they are formed should be light, chalky, white or red. They should be made in spring or autumn, as being the best time for drying; for the intense heat of summer parches the outside before the inside is dry, which afterwards drying into the building, causes them to shrink and break. They are best when made two years before they are used, as they cannot be sufficiently dry in less time. If they are used when newly made and moist, the plaster-work which is laid on them, remaining firm and stiff, and they shrink, consequently not preserving the same height with the incrustation, it is by such contraction loosened and separated. At Utica, therefore, the laws allowed no bricks to be used before they had lain to dry five years. He describes the same sizes as those of Greece, and also half-bricks of each sort; and in building, the whole bricks were laid in one course, and the half-bricks in the next. It was the boast of Augustus that he found Rome of brick and left it of marble; but this, it would appear, could only mean unburnt bricks, for the laws did not permit any walls in public places to be made thicker than one foot and a-half, while brick walls of that sort would not admit of more than one story. Accordingly, the walls were built of hewn stone, stuccoed substances, or rubble. That these testaceous substances were tiles, is evident, for he observes, that it could not be known at first whether they were of good loam and well burnt, but that they should be laid in a roof during a winter and summer before they